

MINUTES
STATE AIDS TASK FORCE
(A subcommittee of State Board of Health)
November 8, 2007

Agenda item #1: Roll Call and Introductions

Larry Mastropierro, Chairperson, opened the face to face and teleconference meeting at the Nevada State Health Division office at 9:05 A.M.

Roll call taken and determined a quorum was not present (short 1 for a quorum).

Attending in Carson City:

April Romo	Deborah McBride	Larry Mastropierro
Beverly Schaeffen	Jennifer Howell	Mary Ellen Harrell
Bob Salcido	Jennifer Stoll-Hayadia	Mary Pennington
Chris Reynolds	Julia Beruleit	Nikki Isaacs
David Parks	Julia Spaulding	Steve Dion

Nedy Tollerstad- Late Arrival 11:15 A.M.

Attending via telephone from Reno:

Lindsey Lightfoot	Trudy Larson
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Attending via telephone from Las Vegas:

Gary Schroeder	Melva Thompson-Robinson	Rick Reich
Gary Vrooman	Linda Anderson	

VOTING members not in attendance:

Antiocho Carrillo	James May	Marcie Jackson
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Since a quorum was not present at the time of the meeting Larry Mastropierro, used his power as Chairperson to take the agenda out of order until a quorum was present.

Agenda item #3: Discussion of the HIV/AIDS State Needs Assessment

Nikki Isaacs, Ryan White Part B coordinator for the State of Nevada, stated that over a year ago, the State of Nevada- Bureau of Community Health and Clark County partnered to hire Strategic Solutions to work with providers, clients, Clark County, and Nevada State Health Division to look at all the HIV services available throughout the State. This project is now complete and Clark County, the State Health Division, and Strategic Solutions have a meeting set in mid November to review, discuss and verify the information and ask for clarification on any needed information before disseminating the report. It did take longer than originally anticipated to collect this information but the report is much more detailed and comprehensive than anticipated. Once this report has been reviewed and the information verified, the report will be ready to distribute.

Agenda item # 4: Quality Management Committee Report

In June, Dr. Nikki Isaacs proposed that a Quality Management Plan Committee be created for:

- Meeting the Ryan White requirement and
- Bring stakeholders together to develop statewide initiatives.

Mary Ellen Harrell and Dr. Trudy Larson volunteered to be on this start up committee and together Dr. Larson, Mary Ellen, and Nikki have met several times via teleconference and communicated by email to start the proposal for the Quality Management structure/membership. Nikki referred to page four of the proposed Quality Management Plan draft, if a hard copy was available. For those who did not have a copy of the draft, Nikki read the list of proposed membership participants to include: Ryan White Part B (State of Nevada Health Division), HIV/AIDS Medical Advisory Board, Southern Nevada Health District, University of Nevada Medical School, Nevada State Health Division Surveillance Program, Nevada State Health Division Prevention Program, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (Medicaid), Northern Nevada Planning Council, Carson City Health and Human Services, Ryan White Part C and D providers, Patient Advocate, Ryan White Part A Clark County, Washoe County District Health Department, and Ryan White Part A Planning Council.

Nikki Isaacs will be sending out the formal invitations to the key decision makers. Once the invited members have accepted and the committee is defined, then the group can define the Quality Management plan and how to work it. Chris Reynolds, from Southern Nevada Health District, asked how people will pick the person to be on the committee. For example, who from the planning councils will be the member? Nikki stated that that will be up to the chair or co-chair. She just wants to make sure that who does attend, does have the authority to be able to make a decision. Nikki stated she was unsure of how the response would be by everyone since this is the first time that a committee like this has been formed in our community. Nikki asked Larry Mastropierro for approval to move forward with this and Larry thought this was a very good plan and a mix of proposed participants. He thought this could be helpful to the State AIDS Task Force to assist in making recommendations to the Board of Health, Legislature, and the Health Division. Though no formal decision could be made at this time, due to a lack of a quorum, Larry recommended that Nikki proceed with formation of the committee.

Agenda item # 6: Update on the website

Julia Spaulding presented that, with the help of other people, the State AIDS Task Force website is now up and running. To get to the website people would need to go to the Health Division website at health.nv.gov. Once there you could go to the left side of the page and click on Board of Health, then click Boards and Commissions, and then go to AIDS Advisory Task Force. On the AIDS Task Force page will be listed information about: current bylaws, Health Division program and personnel, links to the county health departments, current and past agendas, calendar of events and meetings, past minutes of the meetings, list of acronyms (as some people don't understand all the acronyms for HIV/AIDS), current publications, and updated news. Bob Salcido asked Julia who will maintain and keep this website current. Julia stated that between herself, Steve Ingersoll, and April Romo (providing the changes and pertinent information) it would be kept updated. Gary Vrooman stated the lists of resources within the all the communities in the State would be very beneficial. Julia stated that if anyone had any other information to be listed, she would be happy to put it on the website.

Larry applauded Julia for doing a great job and getting this completed as this could be a great resource for many people.

Agenda item # 10: Discussion of Epi Reports by County

Rick Reich, from the Southern Nevada Health District, was able to report on numbers related to Southern Nevada Health District.

As of October, there are 3,397 HIV infected persons, and 4,777 AIDS infected persons. Since October 2007, there were 47 new cases and of those 22 were converted to AIDS.

For HIV testing, there have been 14,700 tests completed so far this year. Last year, there were 16,700 at this time. It is believed the drop in numbers is because of Rapid HIV testing and people just aren't coming back for follow up testing. Of the 14,700 tested, 188 came back positive (1.28%). Last year, 238 of the 16,700 tested came back positive (1.43%). Southern Nevada Health District has completed 1,200 of those tests done this year, BADA has done 1,600, and 1,000 of the test have been done at the jail. Rick also stated that they are in process of changing how the testing is done in the jail system for HIV and Syphilis.

For Syphilis, there were about 877 cases investigated this year while during that same time last year there were approximately 627 cases being investigated.

Rick stated that the Health District just ran its report for August and there were 32 new early cases of Syphilis. Of those, approximately 84% were men and approximately 16% were women. The major risk factor for men was Men having Sex with Men (MSM). For women the most common method of transmission was heterosexual encounters. There are 260 new cases this year, so far, and all of last year there were 319 cases. Rick foresees the Health District passing those numbers by the end of the year.

Case management figures were 410 client contacts for the month of October. This year, there have been 3,850 case management contacts and last year there were 3,760. Currently, Rick report that there is a waiting list of approximately 30 for case management and of those, 50%-65%, were women and children. Dr. Trudy Larson asked Rick about how many of the new early cases have been co-infections. Rick responded that about 37 are co-infected. The numbers are probably much higher with co-morbidities with, approximately, 60-70 percent. Southern Nevada is starting to be more stringent about following CDC guidelines for follow up. This includes making sure tested patients get their results, get the needed medications, if necessary, and doing follow up testing for re-infection.

Chris Reynolds presented an update of testing being done at the Gay and Lesbian Center. There have been more tests at the Gay and Lesbian Center, with an increase in Chlamydia and Gonorrhea testing and those getting HIV/Syphilis testing. This is proving to be an effective testing method as there is been approximately one positive result a week. Outreach testing has also gone up.

Jennifer Stoll- Hayadia, from Washoe County District Health Department, stated that Jennifer Howell would present when she arrived. Jennifer Stoll- Hayadia did state there has been an increase in the numbers of HIV/new AIDS/Syphilis cases in 2007 compared to 2006. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cases are co-infected. Washoe County is now doing bundle testing, which is HIV and Syphilis testing combined. Washoe County is seeing about the same trends as Southern Nevada as far as co-infections.

Larry stated that the Task Force asked for a report back in February and now that it is being presented, it shows what has been believed. The numbers are on the rise, and with the increase in Chlamydia and Gonorrhea, the numbers and facts are proving that there is unprotected sex happening and this is proving to be a problem that is not going away. Chris Reynolds stated that Southern Nevada is working with a few local magazines to put in health alerts that don't look as threatening as the big governmental one posted. Many businesses are agreeing to post these health alerts, to show a concern for their patrons. This was seen by the Review Journal and they did a big article about the outbreak of Syphilis. A local media channel ran a segment about the increase in Syphilis. People have come in and stated they saw the new articles about the big outbreak and want to get tested. This is getting some positive results from people that might never have come in. People are also learning to recognize the signs and symptoms.

Bob Salcido, from the Nevada State Health Division, stated that hopefully by early to mid January the Health Division would have its co-morbidity report from the MIS database.

Jennifer Howell, from Washoe County District Health Department, arrived at 9:40 AM. She reported that the mid year report is in progress and could be viewed on the Washoe County website, under the HIV link, as she only had a few drafts available with her at the time of this meeting. The report will include HIV and STD Sexual Health as well as Hepatitis information.

No comments or further discussion was requested.

Agenda item # 5: *Discussion and possible recommendations for a new member to fill the Planning Bodies/County Coalitions representative vacancy

Larry did note that the meeting is still with out quorum and we could discuss the possible candidate however, at this time, no action could be taken unless another voting member called in or showed up.

Neither Larry nor April Romo brought to the meeting the application for membership from Gary Vrooman, from the Southern Nevada Ryan White Planning Council. Gary was called up to speak of his interest in the Task Force.

Gary spoke of his previous experience and interest in HIV, in California. He worked with HIV information, patients, and has even had to bury friends who died from HIV.

Rick Reich, from the Southern Nevada Health District, spoke with high regards about Gary and his dedication to his work and fully supported his interest in the Task Force.

Beverly Schaeffen, with Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, also spoke of working with Gary through the Planning Council. She stated he shows much passion and dedication to his position.

Larry announced that this agenda item would have to be tabled until February, the next quarterly meeting. He asked that all members look at their calendars and check available dates. For our first three meetings of the year, the Task Force did very good with having a quorum at their meetings and made some valuable accomplishments. Larry recommended that members contact him or April Romo regarding available dates. Larry commented that those who work in the field know more about availability due to conferences, grants being due, budget items, or other meeting dates.

Agenda item # 7: *Follow up discussion and possible recommendation to Rapid HIV Testing and use of Title X funds

Dr. Trudy Larson stated there was uncertainty on why this was an item on the agenda since Title X has to do with Family Planning and those funds can't be used to Rapid HIV testing. April Romo responded this was an item for discussion at the meeting in February 2007. Jennifer Stoll-Hayadia had a copy of the February minutes and there was discussion of not using the funds but possibly seeing if it would be possible to get Title X pricing for the tests in the private sector. Rick Reich stated that companies aren't willing to cut cost and give a lower price for the tests. Mary Ellen Harrell, from Southern Nevada Health District, asked if the hospitals have even started the Rapid HIV testing. Rick Reich responded that not to his knowledge has it started in the private practices, partially because most practices don't want to be involved in the follow up, whether positive or not. Dr. Trudy Larson stated that in the local hospitals in the North there is a policy set, but she was unclear if those policies are being followed yet. Melva Thompson stated that CDC has courses to teach about Rapid Testing in Emergency Rooms and in Labor and Delivery and maybe that is something to bring to Nevada. Dr. Larson stated that one problem foreseen in this is that it will cost money and that is something that may not be available. Melva Thompson stated that she would be willing to look into what is involved to provide training in Nevada and that she would come back with a report. Lindsay Lightfoot stated that she believed there was training in Las Vegas a few months ago. Rick Reich did confirm that there was training.

No other comments were made, and Larry stated that, based on the conversation presented that this be an item dropped from the agenda with no follow up.

Agenda item # 8: *Follow up discussion and possible recommendations of HIV Highly Impacted Groups - Who is out of care and why

No member had information for discussion. No discussion or action was taken.

Agenda item #9: *Update and possible recommendations to the annual report

Larry discussed that he was working with April on the Annual Report, hopefully to be out by the end of the year. Recommended to be included was the North and South Epi report (1-2 pages each), and maybe the financial report on the monies received and spent in Nevada for HIV/AIDS. Task Force made accomplishments for this year include:

1. On October 1, 2006, Larry Mastropierro started his appointment as Chairperson for the State AIDS Task Force for a 2 year term. ([October 18, 2006](#))
2. Finalization of the by-law changes was approved. One major change was the number of voting members was brought down to 14 members to make it easier for a quorum to be met, which has been a successful strategy. ([October 18, 2006](#))
3. Work was started on making a website for the State AIDS Task Force. ([February 7, 2007](#))
4. The update on Syphilis outbreak and unprotected sex is a great concern as when there is an increase of STDs, there is also an increase of HIV/AIDS. ([February 7, 2007](#))
5. Task Force actions are unified by having one spokesperson as a State representative to share information and show cohesiveness. ([June 6, 2007](#))

6. Members assisted in getting 3 bills passed through the Legislature:
 - Prenatal rapid testing- if presenting at a hospital in labor and HIV status is unknown
 - Making sure that those clients that do get tested understand the results and have assistance to resources available, and
 - State Pharmacy Assistance Program (SPAP) to assist with the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). (June 6, 2007)
7. Members started working together to build a Quality Management Plan. (June 6, 2007)

Jennifer Stoll-Hayadia recommended using a State Epi report that provided North and South data as separate reports. Dr. Trudy Larson commented on the good job of getting this started and going.

Agenda item # 11: *Discussion and possible recommendations on planning activities for World AIDS Day

Larry stated that as the Task Force, it was previously presented that there be one spokesperson for the State AIDS Task Force. This should be the Chairperson to show a united front with the North and the South. A press release should be done soon, since World AIDS Day is only about three weeks away. Larry stated that he has offers from State staff to assist with a media release including a list of events leading up to and on the World AIDS Day. Julia Spaulding said that the University of Nevada Reno planned to have testing and a big set up with games and prizes at the Student Union after the basketball game. Julia also stated that though she didn't bring the list, many events in the area will be going on to acknowledge World AIDS Day. Jennifer Stoll-Hayadia also spoke of a club night event to really target young adults. Renown Medical Center will be doing training to providers for HIV testing. Washoe County District Health Department will also be doing many events. Chris Reynolds said that a press release has already been done about Southern Nevada Health District activities that will be going from Monday, November 26th through Monday, December 3rd for World AIDS Day. On December 1st, there will be testing available to all. University of Nevada Las Vegas and Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) be displaying a living quilt and AIDS quilt and the Red Ribbon Ball is also set for World AIDS Day. David Parks told the Task Force that Legislation adopted a resolution to make December 1st World AIDS Day in Nevada.

Nedy Tollerstad arrived at 11:15 AM, making a quorum. At this time, Larry went back on the agenda starting with item # 2 for recommendation and approvals of action items.

Agenda item #2:*Approval of Minutes of June 6, 2007 meeting

Motion:

Dr. Trudy Larson made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Chris Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda item # 5: *Discussion and possible recommendations for a new member to fill the Planning Bodies/County Coalitions representative vacancy

David Parks made the motion to accept Gary Vrooman as a representative for the Planning Bodies/County Coalitions vacancy. Chris Reynolds seconded the motion. No questions or discussion occurred. The vote passed unanimously.

Agenda item #9: *Update and possible recommendations to the annual report

No action was taken. Recommendation was just to put together the report.

Agenda item # 11: *Discussion and possible recommendations on planning activities for World AIDS Day

Dr. Trudy Larson made the recommendation to concur that Larry Mastropiero be the point of contact for the committee and all activities be publicized broadly. David Parks seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously.

Agenda item #12: Public comment-No action items and limited to 3 minutes.

Mary Pennington presented an update on staffing for the Communicable Disease Program. Mary introduced herself as the new program manager. The program also just completed interviews for the STD Coordinator position. A Justification to Fill (the position) was completed and we should be going forward with this very soon. The program applied for the Adult Viral Hepatitis C Grant and some funds were received. Hopefully, we will have a coordinator hired for that position soon. Mary Pennington also addressed the funding in Nevada in consideration to the recent proposed budget cuts. Since most of our programs are federally funded, there shouldn't be much impact to our program. TB and Ryan White / ADAP do receive some State General Funds but it was anticipated that direct services wouldn't be cut.

Dr. Larson suggested as agenda items to be addressed at the next meeting, in February 2008, to include a follow up in HIV/AIDS funding in the State. Bob Salcido stated that he was given this project but it actually has too much detail and that our fiscal people could probably provide more detailed information.

Jennifer Stoll-Hadayia asked if we could possibly start dialogue/discussion for 2009 legislative proposals. Larry thought that that this might be a good idea and that maybe David Parks could assist with the wording on this.

Gary Vrooman suggested that an item for the next agenda be looking at the changes proposed for Ryan White nationwide.

Julia Spaulding also stated that there could be an updated report on STD/HIV co-morbidities.

Agenda item #13: *Adjournment

Larry noted that there were no other comments and asked for the motion to adjourn.

Motion:

Dr. Trudy Larson made the motion to adjourn and Chris Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Larry adjourned the meeting wishing everyone a happy holiday season.